

Grade 7 Sample Test Prompt

Word Choice

Going to the movies is a major source of entertainment for many students. Imagine that the only discount theater in your area is closing.

Write a persuasive essay in support of keeping the discount movie theater open.

Your writing should:

- Include a thesis statement.
- Have a developed point of view.
- Have an introduction, body, and conclusion.

Remember to edit for spelling, grammar, punctuation, and capitalization.

AIMS Six Trait Analytic Writing Rubric – Official Scoring Guide

WORD CHOICE

<p>6</p> <p>Words convey the intended message in an exceptionally interesting, precise, and natural way appropriate to audience and purpose. The writer employs a rich, broad range of words, which have been carefully chosen and thoughtfully placed for impact. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • accurate, strong, specific words; powerful words energize the writing. • fresh, original expression; slang, if used, seems purposeful and is effective. • vocabulary that is striking and varied, but that is natural and not overdone. • ordinary words used in an unusual way. • words that evoke strong images; figurative language may be used. 	<p>5</p> <p>Words convey the intended message in an interesting, precise, and natural way appropriate to audience and purpose. The writer employs a broad range of words which have been carefully chosen and thoughtfully placed for impact. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • accurate, specific words; word choices energize the writing. • fresh, vivid expression; slang, if used, seems purposeful and is effective. • vocabulary that may be striking and varied, but that is natural and not overdone. • ordinary words used in an unusual way. • words that evoke clear images; figurative language may be used. 	<p>4</p> <p>Words effectively convey the intended message. The writer employs a variety of words that are functional and appropriate to audience and purpose. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • words that work but do not particularly energize the writing. • expression that is functional; however, slang, if used, does not seem purposeful and is not particularly effective. • attempts at colorful language that may occasionally seem overdone. • occasional overuse of technical language or jargon. • rare experiments with language; however, the writing may have some fine moments and generally avoids clichés.
<p>3</p> <p>Language is quite ordinary, lacking interest, precision and variety, or may be inappropriate to audience and purpose in places. The writer does not employ a variety of words, producing a sort of “generic” paper filled with familiar words and phrases. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • words that work, but that rarely capture the reader’s interest. • expression that seems mundane and general; slang, if used, does not seem purposeful and is not effective. • attempts at colorful language that seem overdone or forced. • words that are accurate for the most part, although misused words may occasionally appear, technical language or jargon may be overused or inappropriately used. • reliance on clichés and overused expressions. 	<p>2</p> <p>Language is monotonous and/or misused, detracting from the meaning and impact. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • words that are colorless, flat or imprecise. • monotonous repetition or overwhelming reliance on worn expressions that repeatedly distract from the message. • images that are fuzzy or absent altogether. 	<p>1</p> <p>The writing shows an extremely limited vocabulary or is so filled with misuses of words that the meaning is obscured. Only the most general kind of message is communicated because of vague or imprecise language. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • general, vague words that fail to communicate. • an extremely limited range of words. • words that simply do not fit the text; they seem imprecise, inadequate, or just plain wrong.

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Writing**FINAL COPY**


I think that movies shod stay
open most lict I m at home
wriatch T.V.. But when I do go to.
I think of all the thing cood have
when rang. all so most succets are
looking for things to do. I mene that if
they do levu a lot of stucdets will get
mad

Score point 1 – The writing shows extremely limited vocabulary and has misuses of words. Words simply do not fit the text; they seem imprecise and just plain wrong.

Writing**FINAL COPY**

The discount movies should be open because a lot of people go there because its cheap. This theater is the only discount movie theater in the area. If its not open then how will people get to watch a movie. If it's closed the people have to drive down town just to watch a movie. This movie theater is about the largest in the city. This theater is a major source for students. They can come see a movie with their family or friends or just play games. The candy is not cheap or to expensive. The number one selling snack is the popcorn. There is 6 different kinds of popcorn to chose from. There are about ten different drinks that you can chose from. In this theater you can meet new people any age. That's why this

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theater should be open.

Score point 2 – Language is monotonous and echoes the prompt. Words are colorless, flat, and imprecise. Images are absent. “To be” verbs are overused.

Writing**FINAL COPY**

The movie theater shouldn't be closed, because it's a major source of entertainment for students. Many people will be upset if they have to drive far away to see a movie. Since many students like going to the movie theater, they get good business. So, since they get good business, closing the theater doesn't make sense. This movie theater should not be closed!

Students go to the movie theater nearly every weekend. So, closing the theater wouldn't give them much to do. The movie theater actually keeps students out of trouble. Instead of watching a movie they could be out doing drugs, or drinking alcohol. So, this could actually cause more students to get into trouble. Closing the theater could have angry parents/students, cause students to get into trouble, and lose money.

Every student likes to go to the movie theater and parents like to go every now and then. So if you make good business, why close the theater? The answer is don't close the theater. So keep students safe, have happy parents/students, and make good business. Please think

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about what I said and please keep the theater open.

Score point 3 – Language is quite ordinary. It lacks precision and variety. The paper is generic because of phrases such as “...students like going to the movies...” and closed, closing, and close are overused. Words work but rarely capture the reader’s interest.

Writing**FINAL COPY**

I think that the only discount movie theater in our area should stay open because it provides fun, clean, and cheap entertainment to various age groups.

The movie theater is an enjoyable place for students and adults alike. I feel that it strongly affects many peoples' social outcomes. The movie theater does this because without it, many students wouldn't have much, or anything to do on certain days, because they would have usually planned to go to the movies.

Many people make new friends, and friendships at the movies. Groups of friends tend to go to see a film together, which makes for a better chance of meeting new people.

Probably the most important reason to keep the movie theater in this area open is to actually show the motion pictures being advertised. Film makers and actors make movies for audiences to watch. No one in our location would be able to watch new movies. This would eventually lead to the stunting of the growth and production of movies.

All of the reasons that have been compiled above prove to be great reasons supporting the movie theater and business to remain open. Without the movie theater in our location, some lives will be greatly impacted, while others will be barely touched. But altogether, the movie theater's closure, would change; not only the

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people in our area, but many other lives in some way.

Score point 4 – The writer employs a variety of words that are functional and appropriate to audience and purpose. Expression is functional. The writing has some fine moments: "...the stunting of the growth and production of movies." and "...some lives would be greatly impacted...others barely touched."




Writing**FINAL COPY**

Movies have been an excellent source of entertainment for decades. A movie theater is fun, a good income for the city, and has provided many, many people for numerous years. For this reason, I believe that you should reconsider closing the discount movie theatre.

Since I was a little girl, movies have been a great passion of mine. From the Lion King to the Lord of the Rings, I've loved them. Everyone I know, old and young, finds the movies an entertaining and even exhilarating experience. The cool air, the sweet candy and crunchy popcorn, and then the previews before the movie! To take away such a cheap, cost effective setting for this would be a crime! This cruel, corrupt use of power should be stopped before it gets out of hand.

Secondly, people want movie theaters in their town. Tourism helps

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Writing**FINAL COPY**

the economy. Who doesn't want to go see Kill Bill Vol. 2 after taking a nice, calming, peaceful hike by a lovely babbling brook? What will the small majority who wants this do? I will not sit idly by and watch my cheap seats be closed!

I feel that by taking away the movie theater you're not just destroying a building; you're destroying all the movies anyone has ever seen there. You're destroying the heart of that little girl who first saw the Little Mermaid there. You're violently slaughtering and ripping apart every good movie ever played there. Murdering movies should be a felony!

So, you see, you cannot just destroy a place that we all know and love and expect people to do nothing. I may be cheap for caring this much about a discount movie theater, but I still have my pride and passion for the movies!

Score point 5 – The writer employs a broad range of words which have been carefully chosen and thoughtfully placed for impact. Words such as “decades,” “numerous,” and “reconsider” represent careful choices. The writer also offers fresh, vivid expression: “exhilarating experience,” “cool air, sweet candy, and crunchy popcorn,” and “the heart of that little girl who first saw the Little Mermaid.”

STOP

Writing**FINAL COPY**

A student's only wish is to have a little fun in the company of their friends without throwing away twenty dollars. Why take away their only freedom? Going to movies at the discount theatre has been a recreational form of entertainment, common to students, for many years. This local theatre has provided students with freedom from the boring classroom, some extra cash, and a safe environment. So why end the winning streak? Closing the local discount theatre would do just that.

Sitting in a classroom five days a week, for at least six hours a day can make a person very dull and stiff. What's better than an afternoon movie to loosen them up? Gazing up at the glowing movie screen, while reclining in a comfy theatre seat is a great way to enjoy some good, clean fun. While admiring your favorite actor or actress, you can also be munching on popcorn or candy. Students love a chance to relax and soak it all in, while not having to stress about grades or homework. Movie theatres are like a home away from home. The best part about catching the latest flick with your friends is doing it for close to nothing.

It's not like you are wasting money at the discount theatre, either. The discount theatre shows great movies for an inexpensive price. While most theatres charge more than it costs to rent a movie from a video store, the discount theatre offers a completely affordable price for students. Managers of the theatre understand that students aren't raking in the cash and they keep this in mind when charging for movie snacks, too. Popcorn, candy, and drinks may cost a fortune at regular theatres,

Writing**FINAL COPY**

but at the local, discount theatre, five bucks should be enough. This is the reason student customers keep coming back. If the theatre were to close, many people would argue that their money is being wasted at other theatres, where the snacks, security level, and movie quality may not be as good.

Security is major concern of parents today, and letting their kids go to a movie without supervision can be very stressful. However, at the discount theatre, parents can trust that their child is safe. Many young and old adults can afford to enjoy regular theatres which means they would not be bothersome to students at the discount theatre. Not many adults are found lingering around the discount movie theatre, which lowers the chance of a student being harmed. The managing team is also very responsible and knows that if anything harms the students, parents will become involved. Managers take their job very seriously to ensure the safety of students—one of the benefits of the discount theatre.

In conclusion, the discount theatre has a special place in many hearts and closing it would anger many people. Students' entertainment would be taken away, their money would be wasted at other theatres, and their parents' trust would be tested. If the local discount theatre has so much to offer, why close it down? Why end the winning streak?

Score point 6 – Words convey the intended message in an exceptionally interesting, precise, and natural way appropriate to audience and purpose.

Accurate, strong, specific, and powerful words energize the writing. Examples of well-chosen words and phrases are “recreational form of entertainment,” “Gazing up,” “comfy theatre seat,” “munching on popcorn,” “completely affordable,” and “bothersome.” Slang seems purposeful and is effective: “catching the latest flick” and “raking in the cash.”

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